REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, and reconsideration of the Office Action dated September 2, 2004. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-38 will remain pending in this application. New claims 39-48 are also added. The changes to the claims, as well as the newly added claims, are fully supported by the specification and original claims. No new matter is incorporated by this Amendment. Moreover, payment to cover the fees associated with the newly added claims is also submitted herewith.

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The Office Action objected to the abstract because of a typographical error. In response, Applicants submit herewith a new Abstract of the Disclosure which corrects the error. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the new Abstract of the Disclosure in the next Office Action.

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The disclosure was also objected to. Moreover, the Office Action requested that the unit "CFD" on page 13 be properly defined. In response, page 13 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner thereby accommodating this objection.

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Claims 13, 28 and 34 were objected to because of informalities. Specifically, the Office Action required that the abbreviations "CFD" and "pcf" in claims 13 and 28 be defined. In response, Applicants have properly defined both abbreviation as disclosed on pages 18 and 19 of the specification.

With respect to claim 28, the Office Action requested that the percentage of compression for the recited CFD value be added. Moreover, Applicants have amended

claim 28 in a manner to accommodate the objection by adding the CFD percentage value as defined in footnote 1 on page 18 of the specification.

Applicants have also amended claim 34 as suggested by the Examiner. Hence, in view of the above remarks, this objection has been overcome and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

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Claim 38 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Office Action asserted that claim 38 was unclear as written. In response, Applicants have amended claim 38 in a manner that accommodates this rejection. Specifically, claim 38 has been amended to recite "wherein said projections are independent projections ... ." Hence, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

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Claims 1-4, 7-12, 18-21, and 34-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Schafer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,726,087). The Office Action asserted Schafer describes each feature of the listed claims. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants first address independent claim 1 (from which claims 2-4, 7, 9-12, and 18-20 depend) which concerns a pillow. According to claim 1, the pillow has a maximum height in a central region of the pillow. Schaefer neither teaches nor fairly suggests this feature of claim 1. As can be seen from the Figures, Schaefer's foam pillow has a minimum height at the central region. Hence, for at least this reason, Schafer cannot anticipate the invention of claim 1.

Now turning to independent 8 which also concerns a pillow. The pillow of claim 8 includes a plurality of foam projections extending off the main body that are in first and second groups defining different support characteristic zones. The projections include

cylindrical foam extensions that have an axial extension axis extending through the height of the main body. This is completely different from the Schaefer's pillow which includes, on one side, a series of convolutions or ribs. See Column 5, lines 39-45 and Figures. Moreover, while the other side has cylindrical extension, the cylindrical extensions are uniform and thus do not define different support characteristic zones. Hence, Schaefer also fails to anticipate claim 8.

The pillow of independent claim 21 includes foam projections in first and second groups that have an average cross-sectional width value that is greater than a distance of extension of the projections transversely off a supporting surface of said main-body. As has been discussed above, one side of Schaefer's pillow has horizontally extending ribs that extend from the main body, while the other side has circular extensions that are cone shaped. Nowhere in Schafer is it taught or fairly suggested to include foam projections in different support characteristic zones and a pillow having an average cross-sectional width value that is greater than a distance of extension of the projections transversely off a supporting surface of said main-body (e.g., stub-like projections). Hence, Schaefer also fails to anticipate claim 21.

Applicants now turn to claim 34, from which claims 25 and 36 depend. The pillow of claim 34 includes a main body having a longitudinal length and a lateral width and a convex upper surface. Moreover, a plurality of projections extend up off the convex upper surface and are arranged in different support characteristic groupings. In other words, the convex upper surface includes projections forming different support characteristic groupings. This is completely different from the pillow of Schaefer. While Schaefer's pillow has a convex surface amongst a group of curved surfaces, the ribs extending off the convex surface form a single support characteristic while the ribs extending off the central concave surface define another. See Column 6, Lines 14-25. Hence, Schaefer also fails to anticipate independent claim 34.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that this rejection is overcome and respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

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Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious based on Schafer et al. Applicants also respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 22 depends from claim 21. Moreover, the deficiencies of Schafer with respect to claim 21 have been discussed in detail above, and it is further submitted that those deficiencies are not rendered obvious by Schaefer.

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Claims 5, 6, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious based on Schafer et al. in view of Veilleux et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,327,725). Applicants again respectfully traverse.

Claim 5, 6, 13, and 14 all ultimately depend from claim 1. Moreover, the deficiencies of Schaefer with respect to claim 1 are discussed above. Veilleux fails to remedy these deficiencies. Neither Schaefer nor Veilleux teach or fairly suggest a pillow having a maximum height in a central region of the pillow. Veilleux, like Schafer describes a foam pillow having a concave central region. Thus, like Schafer, the pillow described by Veilleux also fails to suggest to those of skill in the art to make a foam pillow having a maximum height in the central region of the pillow.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that this rejection is overcome and respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

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Claims 15-17, 23-33 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious based on Schafer et al. in view of Davidson, Jr. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,160,785). Applicants again respectfully traverse.

Applicants first address claims 15-17 which all ultimately depend from claim 1. The deficiencies of Schaefer with respect to claim 1 are discussed above. Davidson fails to remedy these deficiencies. Neither Schaefer nor Davidson, teach or fairly suggest a pillow having a maximum height in a central region of the pillow. The top of Davidson pillow is essentially flat. Thus the height at the center of the pill is the same as at the ends. In other words, the top of Davidson's pillow is not convex. Thus, like Schafer, the pillow described by Davidson also fails to suggest to those of skill in the art to make a foam pillow having a maximum height in the central region of the pillow.

Applicants now turn to independent claim 23 from which claims 24-30 and 38 all ultimately depend. Independent claim 23 also concerns a pillow. The pillow includes projections arranged in a plurality of rows. The projections include a first type of projection having a first support characteristic, a second type of projection having a second support characteristic and a third projection type. The first, second and third projection types are arranged on the main-body to define first, second and third different support characteristic zones. Moreover, the first and second types of projections are isolated from one another within each respective zone so as to expose regions of the main body which surround the respective projection base-to-main body contact edging.

As discussed above, Schaefer's pillow has horizontally extending ribs. While the ribs are designed to be of different sizes, each rib abuts the adjacent rib(s). Moreover, since the ribs extend horizontally, they cannot be isolated from one another so as to expose regions of the main body surrounding the ribs. Hence, Schaefer neither teaches nor fairly

suggests exposing regions of the main body which surround the projection base-to-main body contact. Applicants note the cone shaped projections on the opposite side of Schaefer's pillow are uniform and thus cannot form regions having different support characteristics.

While Davidson describes a pillow having separated projections, the projections are all uniform and thus cannot create different support characteristic zones. Moreover, neither Schaefer nor Davidson provide the requisite motivation to modify the horizontal ribs taught by Davidson by separating them to expose regions of the main body. This is because Schaefer teaches employing sliced slits with underlying ventilation ports between adjacent ribs. This arrangement was chosen instead of individual projections to provide a wave-like abutting stack contact arrangement which when deflected in front to rear direction provides a multi-rib bounce back effect. Furthermore, employing ventilation slits suggests a desire to keep the upper portion of the ribs in direct contact. Hence, those of skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify the ribs of Schaefer by separating them.

Applicants now turn to independent claim 31 from which claims 32 and 33 depend. The pillow of claim 31 includes a central zone of foam projections of a second projection type, and a first row of foam projection of a first projection type that is positioned laterally between a first foam ridge extension and the central zone of foam projections. In addition, the projections and ridge extension are spaced apart and in an arrangement that provides for molding of a final configuration molded body. Again, Schaefer fails to describe the claimed spaced apart arrangement. Moreover, as explained above, Schaefer teaches employing sliced ventilation slits between adjacent ribs instead of individual projections to provide for side-to-side continuous rubbing contact which provides for some degree of

independent deflection while maintaining the stack contact arrangement when deflected in front to rear direction and thus provides no motivation for modifying his arrangement. Davidson also fails to provide sufficient motivation to modify Schaefer's arrangement with its wave-stack contact ribs and ventilation porting to allow for the desired abutment relationship.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that this rejection is overcome and respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

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Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment and the above remarks obviate the outstanding objections and rejections in this case, thereby placing the application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

If any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 032161.066.

If an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is necessary that is not accounted for in the papers filed herewith, such an extension is requested. The extension fee should be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 032161.066.

Respectfully submitted,
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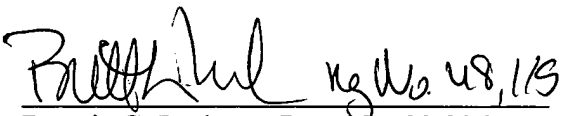
By:  Reg. No. 48,115

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